



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

June 29, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Beale

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0642](#) Growing Resilience in Tacoma Update

At approximately 12:04 p.m., Dona Ponepinto, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Pierce County, presented an update on the Growing Resilience in Tacoma (GRIT) program, formerly known as Tacoma Guaranteed Income, including progress to date, participant criteria, funding sources, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI) program; goals and indicators of success; impacts on the asset limited, income constrained, and employed population; GRIT program funding and timelines; gathering data; demonstrating the value of MGI programs; the number of families to be served; administrative costs; comparison and interactions with other public benefits programs; MGI programs in other cities; public perception and terminology; issues related to child care; and program partners, noting United Way, Tacoma Housing Authority, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, the Tacoma Urban League, and Sound Outreach.

2. [21-0643](#) Totem Rescission

At approximately 1:02 p.m., Amy McBride, Arts Administrator, Tacoma Venues and Events, provided opening remarks and introduced Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, Planning and Development Services. Mr. McKnight presented on the proposed rescission of the Tacoma Totem Pole, including an overview and background of Tacoma Arts Commission and Landmarks Preservation Commission meetings. Ms. McBride further presented on issues, noting the process to deaccession and disposition the Tacoma Totem Pole from the City's art collection, timeline for removal, and new works to be commissioned by Puyallup and Coast Salish artists in collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. Mr. McKnight concluded by explaining the process for rescission of a City of Tacoma landmark on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places; a health, equity, and sustainability analysis; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding previous discussions about the Tacoma Totem Pole, efforts to add new assets to the City's art collection and the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, removal and disposal steps, and the value of feedback and relationships with marginalized communities.

3. [21-0644](#) Police Alternative Response Study

At approximately 1:24 p.m., Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager, provided opening remarks and introduced Richard Brady, President, and Ian Brady, Vice President, Matrix Consulting Group. Together, Ian and Richard Brady presented the Tacoma Police Department (TPD) Alternative Response Study, including background; study objectives, noting the focus on mental health and homelessness response; the process, noting data collection; current approaches and issues, noting the Homeless Outreach Team and COVID-19 pandemic impacts; encampment response findings; the framework for calls before and after implementing proposed call diversion approaches; mental health response methods and time frames of divertible calls; feasibility of mental health call diversion; non-emergency call diversion and time frames of divertible calls; impact on 2020 TPD staffing study findings; implementation steps related to call diversion and the mental health crisis team; and potential impacts.

Discussion ensued regarding goals for diverting calls, existing staffing issues and previous recommendations, Community Liaison Officers and Community Service Officers, calls to defund TPD, call for service types and frequencies, alternative assessment methods and approaches, expectations for law enforcement officer support on diverted calls, investigations and case

closure rates, reconciling the Alternative Response Study with the previous staffing study, domestic violence calls, flexibility in how calls are responded to, education and outreach about 9-1-1 services, time of day for different call types, next focus areas, funding sources, the City Council's role, and models used in other cities.

4. [21-0645](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 2:40 p.m., Deputy City Manager Wille presented an update on systems transformation, including new items, noting policies and transforming existing programs, noting alignment of City initiatives with anti-racist transformation goals, and an update on recruitment of a new Human Resources Director; the divertible calls and TPD Alternative Response Study discussed earlier in the study session, and body worn camera and dashboard camera funding; recent accomplishments, in-progress, and upcoming activities; and short- and long-range transformation timelines.

Other Items of Interest

5. [21-0647](#) Council Consideration Request - Mayors for a Guaranteed Income and United Way

Council Member Walker presented a Council Consideration Request for a resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with MGI and United Way of Pierce County to provide \$500,000 in additional funding for a Guaranteed Income Demonstration in the City of Tacoma, noting partners, funding needs and sources, and program goals.

Discussion ensued regarding previous funding received, proposed use of the requested funds, fundraising goals, and administrative costs.

6. [21-0650](#) Council Consideration Request - Accommodations for Korean Delegation

Deputy Mayor Blocker presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$5,000 of City Council Contingency Funds to support the lodging and accommodations of a student group and host from Korea who are participating at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center's 25th Anniversary fundraiser as educational and cultural ambassadors.

Discussion ensued regarding previous events, and proposed action on tonight's meeting agenda.

7. [21-0652](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Mike Ake, Interim Police Chief, TPD, presented an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, including the status of records requests with the Washington State Attorney General's Office, Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office, and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department; TPD's process to validate the records received; and work to compile a list of individuals to be interviewed.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

* * * * *

Deputy City Manager Wille stated they expect in-person study sessions will resume on July 20, 2021; in-person City Council meetings will resume on August 3, 2021; and in-person City Council Standing Committee meetings will resume in August.

Discussion ensued regarding meeting logistics, preparation, training, and rules.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

8. [21-0654](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, June 24, 2021

Deputy City Manager Wille stated there are four ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, recognizing Michael Mirra, Executive Director, Tacoma Housing Authority; proclaiming Wednesday, June 30, 2021, as "Welcome Back, Tacoma!" Day; proclaiming July 12-16, 2021, as Summer Learning Week; and proclaiming July 2021 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. He concluded by stating there are no changes expected to tonight's agenda.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Doris Sorum, City Clerk